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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OLC 78-1944/U

10 OCT 1978

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Legislative Counsel

Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I need not impress on you the need to protect sensitive compartmented intelligence which is so vital to our Nation's intelligence collection efforts. The Director of Central Intelligence became seriously concerned by the increasing numbers of persons granted access to compartmented intelligence and initiated a review within the Executive Branch to critically assess the basis for the granting of such access. The Director has extended this review to the Legislative Branch and issued Guidelines establishing my office as the Community focal point to oversee the issuance of compartmented clearances for the Congress, the General Accounting Office and the Library of Congress.

STAT A member of my office will be in contact with Mr. Guy G. McConnell, on your staff, to review existing compartmented clearances for staff members of your Committee and to establish procedures for the issuance of future clearances. We will represent all Community agencies which sponsor the issuance of [redacted] clearances for staff members on your Committee. I assure you that this program is not intended in any way to impair the work of the Congress which requires access to sensitive intelligence. Our only concern, which I know you share, is that there be a clearly established need for such access.

I feel certain that in a spirit of cooperation we can work out suitable arrangements to effectively limit and control the issuance of compartmented clearances and thereby enhance the protection of our most vital intelligence collection assets. Enclosed is a copy of the Director's letter to the President of the Senate informing him of the program. A similar letter was sent to the Speaker.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Frederick P. Hitz

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Enclosure OLC 78-1944/a

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